

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#04-1011

Seventh Day

January 25, 2010

For many years now, I have placed much emphasis on the seventh day and the fact that God has set seven 1000-year days for our present earth. However, in the last year, I have been increasingly aware of the eighth day to the point that I believe it is far greater than the seventh day, for it speaks of something far greater than simply a renaissance, as the seventh day does; it speaks of a new beginning of all that is new. In other words, the eighth day speaks of more than what Adam had in the beginning. It speaks of something far more glorious that is in Christ, the Son of God.

The eighth day is not about taking us back 7,000 years to the restoration of the earth; rather, it is about taking us on to new things that have been hidden in the heart of God before He spoke forth creation itself. The eighth day is not about restoring the first man; it is about creating a new Man, the one new man in Christ. It is not about going back; it is about going on.

With this thought in mind, as I began to gather my thoughts on the eighth day, I realized that I need to start with a short summary of the seventh day. Consequently, this issue deals with the seventh day. The eighth day will be taken up in another issue.

To begin; the first six days or 6,000 years could be called **Man's Day** and the seventh day or the last 1,000 years for our present earth could be called the **Lord's Day**. I wrote a chapter on this subject in my book *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons* (see volume 1, chapter 2) for those not familiar with this most important subject.

The book of beginnings, the book of Genesis, lays down the foundation for the seventh day that is woven throughout Scripture, both old and new. In fact, the number 7, which signifies *spiritual perfection*, is woven throughout the word of God.

(1) Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. (2) By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (3) Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. (4) This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. (Genesis 2:1-4 NASB)

Without doubt, understanding the seventh day is vital to our understanding of the kingdom of God that will begin to take root among the nations in the next age that is called the **Kingdom Age** or, as John recorded in his Patmos vision, **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15).

Six thousand years ago, the first earth was waste and in ruin. The spirit of God hovered over the raging waters that flowed across the surface of the first earth. The fact of the matter is that we are not given much, if any, indication of the condition of the earth prior to Genesis 1:2; at that time, it was dark and could not support life as we know it today. It is for this reason that I refer to it as the first earth.

And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2 ASV)

Many debate over whether the earth was created this way in the first place (i.e., through a "big bang"; chaos to order) or whether it was first created as a perfect habitable world and then became a place of

waste and chaos (order to chaos). Left alone, chaos never becomes order, so God would have had to intervene either way. I can see the case for either way, as long as it comes from God and not through happenstance, as some believe. I have made the point elsewhere that there was order in the beginning when God first created the heavens and the earth, chaos entered in, for whatever reason, and then God spoke order to the chaos. However, regardless of one's view, the fact of the matter is that it simply was in a much different condition prior to Elohim speaking forth His light into it in order to make it habitable, something that it was not at that point in time.

Elohim spoke forth His word to restore the earth so that it could be habitable for His new creation that He would form from the soil of the earth. So, Elohim spoke restoration into the earth, and a new or second earth, not in structure or composition but in condition or order, came forth that thrived with life. Unfortunately, but according to God's plan, death entered into His restored earth shortly after the creation of Adam, most likely, when the first man was 33½.

Although defeated through the resurrection of the Son of God, death will continue throughout the history of the second earth. It will be greatly diminished in the last age; nevertheless, it will continue until this second earth is completely purged of all the sin and death that it has known (2 Peter 3:10-12).

However, God's plan for this second earth will not be fulfilled until He brings it into the seventh day, which speaks of a 1,000-year day of rest. This final era will complete the history of the earth that mankind has known for the last 6,000 years, a relatively short period of time in which the earth has experienced a cataclysmic worldwide flood and major upheavals and movement of land masses that have shaped the world as we know it today.

The good news is that a seventh day is coming soon that will usher in a day of rest for the earth as the Lord Jesus brings the history of the second heaven and earth to its rightful and preordained conclusion. It is during this last age for our present earth that the nations will begin to acknowledge that they are the inheritance of the Son of God and the very ends of the earth are His possession.

(6) "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain. (7) I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. (8) Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. (9) You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'" (10) Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. (11) Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. (12) Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! (Psalm 2:6-12 NASB)

Jesus will be pronounced the King of the nations, and the nations will begin to learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9) through the immortal sons of God, and the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will begin to fill the earth until it fills the whole earth as the waters cover the sea.

(12) "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and founds a town with violence! (13) Is it not indeed from the LORD of hosts that peoples toil for fire, and nations grow weary for nothing? (14) For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:12-14 NASB)

Down through history, the nations have built with bloodshed and violence. It continues in our day as well. The nations are growing weary and groaning under the weight of sin.

The good news is that the glory of the Lord will reverse this. The glory of the Lord will purge the earth of all its defilements, its sin and death; and this begins in the seventh day. But as I will show in subsequent issues, it is based on the principle of the eighth day, which speaks of the new creation and sonship.